

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The difference data between the real pattern data  
Sij, and a 5 × 5 window with a noticed pixel in the  
center and the design pattern data Rij obtained by the  
design pattern data of the window being shifted in a  
plurality of directions with respect to the design  
pattern data Rig is found by a shift direction  
operation section, and the design pattern data in the  
direction in which the total of the pixels is minimum  
10 is selected from the difference data by a selection  
section, the difference between the central pixels Sij,  
Qij of the selected design pattern data and the central  
pixels Sij, Qij of the windows of the real pattern data  
is found by a difference operation section, and the  
15 difference and a threshold are compared in a defect  
judgment section, and thereby the pattern inspection of  
the object is carried out.